

## FILM CLIPS NEWS FROM THE MONTANA FILM OFFICE

### Deny Staggs elected to Association of Film Commissioners board

In late 2014, Montana Film Commissioner Deny Staggs was elected to the board of the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI). AFCI is a worldwide organization that elevates member film commissions' influence within the industry by providing educational courses, economic impact resources and insights from commissioners and communities around the world.

Board members engage closely with an advisory board comprised of MaryAnne Hughes of Walt Disney Studios, Jay Rowley of HBO, Kevin Logan of FOX and others. Staggs's appointment to the board further places Montana in a key position of access to the top projects that are best suited for our state.

### Montana Film Office returns to Sundance

The film office returned to the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, this time with Montana State University, CHISEL Industries, Headframe Spirits, and Montana singer-songwriter Kayla Adams in tow.

A long-time partnership with the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) and its publication, *Beyond Cinema*, brought the Montana Film Office back to Sundance to host a Montana-centric reception that featured a screening of the Butte-filmed short film, "The Orphan Girl," introduced by John and Courtney McKee of Headframe Spirits, and featuring music from Adams, a Kalispell native who is making a splash on the country music scene.

MFO was able to use the opportunity to be in Park City to meet with YouTube pioneers through a partnership with the *Hollywood Reporter*, Tim Daly of the Creative Coalition, Texas and Utah film commissions, and multiple filmmakers and producers.

Specifically, a renowned producer team with a film in the Sundance competi-

tion met with Staggs to discuss filming their next project this July in Red Lodge and Crow Agency. More information on that production will become available as MFO continues to work on the project.

### HBO may be shooting "Undaunted Courage" soon

It looks like this summer could finally be the year that the "Undaunted Courage/Lewis and Clark" shoots. HBO has informed the film office that while no specific filming location has been announced, there will be a significant amount of second unit and plate-shot filming in Montana this summer.

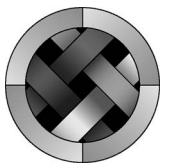
Montana is sure to see a boost in visitation along the Lewis and Clark Trail when this six-part mini-series airs. The MFO will be proactive in helping the impacted communities develop and promote their connection to this programming so each can benefit by this type of exposure. More to come on these opportunities as the project develops.

### HB 120: Big Sky On the Big Screen Act passes House

HB 120, which would reenact the Big Sky on the Big Screen Act and make permanent the availability of tax credits for the motion picture and television industries, passed the Montana House of Representatives with a vote of 60-40 with many members of the House Taxation Committee voting for the bill.

Republican Representatives Schwaderer (HD 14), Hertz (HD 12), and Olzweski (HD 11) spoke to the power of the Big Sky on the Big Screen Act as a tool for continuing to support Montana's growing media industries and as a marketing tool for Montana to the larger industries.

The bill has been referred back to the appropriations committee and is now undergoing evaluation for statutory appropriations within the bill. Any questions about the bill's progress or how you can get involved can be directed to Nik Griffith at MFO, [ngriffith@mt.gov](mailto:ngriffith@mt.gov) or 406-841-2879.



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## MONTANA POET LAUREATE

### How Sight Develops in a Dry Land

By Tami Haaland

She searches for flowers because she lives  
in a dry land, tan with variation.  
The occasional yellow or blue or brilliant white  
draws her, light for a hungry moth.

Later, the parts: leaves, petals, seeds.  
And later, the uses they might be put to:  
mayflowers threaded into bracelets,  
the flavor of wild onion and juniper.

She doesn't care for tame. She prefers  
incidental: yellow aster on sand,  
blue beetles in waxy cactus flowers,  
for three whole days a wild plum in bloom.

— Published in *The Same*, 2011; *Poetry Net*, March 2013; and *An Elk River Reader: Livingston and Billings Area Writers*, 2014



## MAP (from previous page)

Creating a **sustainable** life in the arts is complicated. There is no singular approach to building a business around creative expression and one thing is certain – it doesn't happen quickly. MAP is built on the principle of transformational learning by offering artists not only practical tools they'll use to build a sound business, but peer-to-peer mentoring to examine and personalize principles and goals, and the experience of community to balance and sustain the process.

It's also built on the theory that an artist must continue to nurture their art, as well as their art business. These features are what make MAP different from other business development resources for artists.

And, here's the best part. It works.

The Montana Arts Council recently contracted an outside agency to gather data from MAP participants from 2009 through April 2013. The survey was intended to help us better understand and quantify the impact of the program on participating artists.

The entire results can be found on the homepage of our website, but one of the most compelling statistics that came out of the research is that MAP artists saw a 275% increase in net sales since participating in the program. Net gain is where sustainability lives – it means that artists have learned through MAP, not simply to monetize their creativity, but to do it profitably.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in MAP, please visit our website at [www.art.mt.gov/folklife/folklife\\_business.asp](http://www.art.mt.gov/folklife/folklife_business.asp) or feel free to call me anytime at 406-865-0884.

## Montana Poet Laureate 2015

Poetry

### Nominations for the State's next Poet Laureate Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2015 at 5 p.m.

The Montana Arts Council encourages nominations of poets from all walks of life, and all poetry forms are welcome. Montanans may nominate a poet for the Poet Laureate position, or learn more about eligibility requirements, the application process and more about the Poet Laureate Program at:  
[http://art.mt.gov/resources/resources\\_plposition.asp](http://art.mt.gov/resources/resources_plposition.asp)

For more information please contact:

**Montana Poet Laureate Program**

**Kim Baraby Hurtle**

**[Khurtle@mt.gov](mailto:Khurtle@mt.gov) (406) 444-6639**

### Nominations open for High Plains Book Awards

Nominations for the ninth annual High Plains Book Awards will be accepted through March 14.

The Billings Public Library Board of Directors established the High Plains Book Awards in 2006 to recognize regional authors and/or literary works which examine and reflect life on the High Plains, a region that includes Montana.

The 2015 Awards include 11 categories: Medicine and Science Book, Children's Book, Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, First Book, Woman Writer, Art and Photography, Short Stories, Culinary and Young Adult.

Nominated books must be published for the first time in 2014. Winners receive a \$500 prize and are invited to participate in the annual High Plains BookFest in October 2015.

Information and nomination forms are available at [highplainsbookawards.org](http://highplainsbookawards.org). Writers interested in participating in the festival should contact Writer's Voice director Corby Skinner via email: [corby@skinnerbenoit.com](mailto:corby@skinnerbenoit.com).

Questions concerning the nominations process should be directed to: Dee Ann Redman, assistant director of the Billings Public Library, [redmand@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:redmand@ci.billings.mt.us).